

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS 18 MAY 2003

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English. This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za and on packet bulletin boards. SARL NEWS invites clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to amateurs to news@sarl.org.za not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English.

In the news today:

SARL PRESIDENT RESIGNS

SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING

DIRECTOR GENERAL TO DELIVER KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT
WORLDSPACE AMSATCON 2003

FCC GRANTS FIVE 60-METER CHANNELS

Stay tuned for more details on these and other news items.

You are tuned to ZS6SRL. Visit the SARL Website or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

The news follows in detail:

SARL PRESIDENT RESIGNS

At the opening of the special budget meeting which was held yesterday at the NARC, Vice President of the SARL, Hans Potgieter, ZS6ALJ, announced that Sid Tyler, ZS6AYC, resigned as President of the SARL as from the 15th May. Hans Potgieter will thus be at the helm of the SARL till the council meeting that will be held after the Special General Meeting which will consider an amended budget for 2003/2004 before the end of this financial year. A new President will be elected during that council meeting.

SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING

The special budget meeting held yesterday in the NARC was attended by 20 league members of which six were council members. The members present represented thirteen clubs. Vice President Hans Potgieter chaired the meeting which lasted from 11:30 till 14:30. Bill Norval, ZS5KD, explained the draft budget presented at the last AGM line for line and after thereafter members commented critically and in depth. The end result was that the treasurer has been tasked to draw up a budget based on comments already received, acceptable membership fees and services that must be rendered but with expenditure subject to strict control. Sandton Club will compile a comprehensive report which will be

included in next week's bulletin and also be circulated to clubs for information and comments.

The Special General Meeting where a budget must be accepted, has been convened for 21 June and members, clubs and branches will thus have approximately five weeks to prepare them for meaningful participation in the SGM.

DIRECTOR GENERAL TO DELIVER KEYNOTE ADDRESS AT WORLDSPACE AMSATCON 2003

Dr Andile Ngaba, Director General of the Department of Communications will deliver the keynote opening address at the WorldSpace AMSATCON 2003, to be held at the SARL's National Amateur Radio Centre on Saturday 24 May 2003.

The programme includes a unique teleconference presentation by Rick Hambly, W2GPS, who will be discussing the AMSAT OSCAR E satellite project currently under construction in the US and due for launch in the 2004 time frame. Two of the sessions will focus on ETSI, the search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence while for the home constructor Gerald Klatzko will present a paper on how to get up and running on AO40 and Ivo Chladek, ZS6AXT, on how to set up for weak signal communication. Other subjects include amongst others Weather Satellite reception, and SUNSAT 2 fact or fiction?.

The closing date for registration is Thursday 22nd May. The cost is R50 for SARL, SAATI and SA AMSAT members and R100 for non-members of these organisations. Student registration is R25. These fees include all refreshments and lunch as well as an automatic entry into the draw for a WorldSpace Satellite Receiver sponsored by WorldSpace Southern Africa.

A full programme and registration forms are available on the SARL web at www.sarl.org.za or can be requested by sending an email to saamsat@intekom.co.za or a fax to 012 991 5651.

INTECNET TO OFFER HANDS-ON DISCUSSION ON WEAK SIGNAL COMMUNICATION

In celebration of World Telecommunication Day, which was held yesterday, the SARL is presenting an INTECNET with a difference this evening. The discussions will be around weak signal communication and an in-depth look at the WSJT software already being used by many radio amateurs in South Africa. Joe Taylor who developed the WSJT software will introduce the talk show. Barry Murrell, ZR6DXB, will review current VHF operation while Hal Lund discusses the future of VHF digital communication. There are a number of radio amateurs in South Africa who are already using the WSJT software, they will be joining the network and share their experiences.

INTECNET 2003 is on the air at 20:00 CAT tonight, Sunday 18 May on a repeater near you and on 3 718 kHz. Clubs wishing to connect their repeater to

the network have until 12 noon today to send details and the telephone number to be linked to the Telkom teleconference facility to armi@sarl.org.za.

SA AMSAT AGM

SA AMSAT will be holding its AGM at the SARL National Amateur Radio Centre at 16:00 CAT on Saturday 24 May, following the WorldSpace AMSAT-CON 2003. The meeting will elect a new steering committee to reactivate SA AMSAT and to plan on the air discussion nets, how to get more activity on amateur satellites and the reintroduction of the BACAR projects (BACAR is the acronym for Balloon Carrying Amateur Radio). If you have ideas that you would like to be discussed please send an Email to SAAMSAT@intekom.co.za or fax it to 012 991 5651. The meeting is open to all Radio Amateurs.

FCC GRANTS FIVE 60-METER CHANNELS

The granting of just five spot frequencies—5 332, 5 348, 5 368, 5 373, and 5 405 kHz—at 60 meters was less of a surprise given opposition expressed last fall by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). The NTIA had cited a possible need for the requested band by federal government users and proposed the five specific frequencies for amateur use on a secondary basis. The FCC has granted operation on USB (2K8J3E emission) only, with a maximum effective radiated power limit of 50 W relative to a 0 dB gain antenna—a half-wave dipole. The channels—each with a maximum permissible bandwidth of 2,8 kHz—will be available to General and higher class licensees.

“While the new amateur privileges at 5 MHz are not as flexible as we had hoped, we recognize that much has changed since the ARRL petition for rulemaking was submitted to the FCC in the summer of 2001,” Sumner said. “Federal agencies with homeland security responsibilities have renewed interest in HF radio communication.”

Sumner predicted that, over time, amateurs “will develop a record of disciplined, responsible use of the five channels in the public interest that will justify another look at these rather severe initial restrictions.”

The FCC said it gave “considerable weight” to the NTIA’s concerns in making its decision on the ARRL’s 60-meter request. The Commission denied requests by the United Power Line Council (UPLC), a consortium of PLC manufacturers, and the Power Line Communications Association (PLCA) to delay action in the proceeding. Both organisations had said that amateur operation in the vicinity of 5 MHz could affect plans for broadband over future power line (BPL) deployment.

“We are pleased that the FCC has underscored the fact that broadband PLC systems must be designed so as to not cause harmful interference to licensed, allocated services,” Sumner said. The ARRL had conducted lengthy experimental operations on the band that involved users across the US. The band is primary for several governmental agencies including the military.

4th EYAC 2003 IN BASTHEIM GERMANY

The German Radio Club, DARC, is proud being the hosting society of the 4th European (Region 1) Youth Amateur Radio Direction Finding Championship 2003.”

“We are happy to have the support of the community of Bastheim and the local radio club there. Bastheim is a little town in the middle of Germany, with about 2 500 inhabitants. Bastheim is located in a hilly terrain with widespread forests. An ideal location for ARDF competitions.”

“To keep the costs moderate, we have decided to have the accommodation in the Elementary School of Bastheim, where we will prepare classrooms for the teams. For a youngsters event this will be a suitable solution. Due to the fact that we are using a school, the date is fixed to fall in the holidays. We decided upon the dates from June 7 to June 11.”

“The Competition Centre will be about 300 m away from the school. The Besen Scheuer” will host the competition centre and all meals will be served there. Several computers with free access to the internet and the radio station DA0RDF will be available to everyone for free.”

“Bastheim, the local radio club and the district of Frankonia is looking forward to meet you at the 4th EYAC in Bastheim.”

DATES TO REMEMBER

SARL Intechnet tonight at 20:00; TV broadcast of activities at Science, Engineering and Technology week on 21 May on TV3 program Business Focus at 18:00; WORLDSPACE AMSATCON on 24 May at NARC; PEARS Microwave and Digital contest on 13 – 15 June

This brings us to the end of today’s bulletin which was compiled by Martin, ZS6ABU and read byfrom..... as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts. The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 21 560, 9 750, and 7 082 kHz and 145,625 MHz in East London, 145,650 in Durban 145,750 MHz in Pretoria and 438,800 in the Sandton area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 20:00 CAT on 3215 kHz. ARMI is sponsored by Telkom and Sentech.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL, thank you for joining us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone. /EX